(c) The proposal of the Department for enhancing its technology in the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been forwarded to Planning Commission.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Requirement of spectrum for mobile services

†460. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications requires 42.5 mega hertz spectrum for mobile services;

(b) by when this additional spectrum is likely to be obtained; and

(c) whether defence services would be affected by giving additional spectrum to telecommunication services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The assessment of spectrum requirements to achieve the national targets of mobile telephones has been made and discussions have been held with concerned wireless users including Defence for coordination/release of required spectrum. Alternate media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) for such existing usages has been planned appropriately.

Bindding process for availing subsidy

461. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telecom companies that emerged successful in the bidding process for availing the subsidy proposed to be extended by Government;

(b) the areas specified for creating infrastructure in the country as a whole and Andhra Pradesh in particular;

(c) whether the subsidy being extended is limited to rural areas only; and

(d) if so, whether it would create dual rate policy to the subscribers of rural and urban areas by the service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A scheme has recently been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites constituting 81 Clusters covering 500 districts in 27 States. A Statement containing summary of the successful bidders in 81 Clusters for Part-A and Part-B of the scheme along with the number of towers is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) A Statement indicating the State-wise number of towers to be set up in the country including Andhra Pradesh is given in Statement-II (*See* below). The details

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.